



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) Dunstan et al.

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Asst. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the accompanying application under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(d) as follows:

In the claims:

Cancel claims 1 - 20.

Please amend the following claims:

21. (amended) A protein having a formula selected from the group consisting of  $R_1-R_2$  and  $R_1-L-R_2$ , wherein  $R_1$  is a Fc protein, or a variant or fragment thereof,  $R_2$  is a variant or fragment of an osteoprotegerin (OPG) protein comprising amino acids 22-401 as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), and L is a linker, wherein the protein has the activity of decreasing bone resorption.

FC Fusion to N-Terminals

fc-OPG

**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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